SHRI EDUAR1X) FALEIRO; I may mention her > that DAVP at our request orgar ised a photo exhibition and an exh bition of paintings, deluding the paintings done by school children or some schools in Delhi. The exhibition is ready. We have already taken it to some areas outside Delhi. I) I may mention, I have taken it to my own constituency. We welcome State Governments asking us o have this exhibition in their Stat is. We will liaise with the Information Ministry and do the needful in the matter.

DR. G. VIJA^ MOHAN REDDY: I would like to Pnow whether the aspect of the Afi Lean people's struggle will be refle :ted properly in the exhibition.

SHRI EDUARD) FALEIRO: Yes**.** We will do all i ecessary things in this matter.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Madam, when this festival was being held in Delhi, tne most interesting item which was actually presented on that occasion was not by the Africans. I am veiy candid in saying it here. It waj actually presented by Siddis, a community from Gujarat which came to India thousands of years ago fr< rn Abyssinia. They have become In lians. They speak Gujarati, but the ' have not lost their cultural tradition They were actually brought here to give their traditional performar :e on that occasion .which received tremendous ovation and appreciation from the audience which witnessed! it. fn view of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many people of this kind have come from different parts of the world, settled down in India, become Indians but have not lost the ir culture and tradition and whether the Government will give encouragement to therh so that their cultuie and tradition is kept alive.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Madam, it is true that this group is there. It is a very good thing. It-shows the nature of thi$_s$ country with diverse cultures which are very valuable. We, however, do not propose to have a survey as to how many people are there because a citizen of this country is a citizen of this country and this is what matters: \

Acation taken on the suggestions of the Sab-Committee on Handloom Development Schemes

*204. SHRIMATl KANAK MUKHERJEE:t
DR.*R.'K. PODDAR;
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state**:.**

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Committee on restructuring of handloom development schemes and programmes has submitted its suggestions to Government;

(b) if so, when did it submit its suggestions and what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken on the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MRDHA)**:** (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRIMATl KANAK MUKHER-JEE: Madam, here is a Press clipping with me dated 1&-6-87 which says that the sub-committee on restructuring of handloom development schemes and programmes has submitted its recommendations to the Government. But I am astonished to see here that the Government says that they have not received the recommendations. Anyway, whether they have received tlje recommendations or not, it appears, Government intends to undertake some welfare measures for the hand-loom weavers. Madam, the weavers

tThe question was actually asked on-the floor of the House by Shri-mati Kanak Mukherjee.

are of tw,o kinds. One is, employed by tjie master-weavers and the other is the self-employed group, having their own looms: I would like to know whether the welfare schemes will cover both these types ,of weavers. Secondly, Madam,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have asked your question. (Intemtp-
.'.ous) Do you want information from the Minister?

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHER-JEE; This is my information. *(Inter, ruptions)* My question is whether the Central Government intends to do something for the weavers or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; You nave put your question. N,ow, the Minister will answer.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Madam, we are very much conscious of the importance of the handloom sector in our national economy. It gives employment t0 a very large number of people. Our policy has all along been and would continue to be to give support to this sector to the extent possible. The sub-committee which the hon. Member mentioned was appointed by the standing committee on handloom of the' All-India Handicrafts and Handlooms Board. This sub-committee was appointed by the standing committee of the Board to review all the welfare schemes which are being handled by the Government of India at the present moment for the welfare of the weavers. I have a list of these schemes which are in existence aow, but we want them to be reviewed from time to time, so that we are able to improve the working of the existing schemes or add more schemes or amplify them in a proper way. Apart from the Sub-Committee, we have engaged Institute of Rural Managa-ment, Anand, t0 go into the schemes on their own also. So, this Sub-Committee's report has not gone to the Standing Committee itself,* much less to the Government. The work of the Sub-Committee is going on. Apart from that the Rural Management Institute is also looking into all the welfare schemes. The report of the Sub-Committee will go to the Standing Committee and the Board and then they will come to the Government with necessary recommendations of the Board. And then we will see what has to be done on that.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHER-JEE; May I ask, Madam, whether the Government has thought of some administrative machinery by giving representation to the representatives of the weaver associations to implement the schemes? Otherwise, we all know that the Government has got so many welfare schemes for the coir employees, for the beedi workers and SP on but no useful purpose is served. The money is disbursed but actually the workers are not benefited. Now the textile policy of the Government is in favour of the large scale textile mills. The standard cloth which was produced by the mills earlier has now been passed on to the handloom, which is not profitable at all because the textile mills sell the yarn at a very high cost to the weavers. So, it is not at all profitable or economical. May. I know what steps the Government propose to take to help the handloom weavers, to guarantee them regular employment because lakhs of handloom weavers are now without employment?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Our Policy is that the handloom weavers cooperatives are strengthened to the extent possible so that they can get yarn at a proper price. 'We have a number of schemes t0 assist the weavers cooperatives in States. But I am sorry to say that one of the weakest cooperative structures la tnft country is in West Bengal and if the hon. Member can do something on that, we will be ahle to do much more far the weavers of West Bengal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Dr. Poddar.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHER-JEE: Madam. I have a question to

aek. I have my setond supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already asked two supplementaries. Anyway, I will allow you one question later on. Let Dr. Poddar put the question.

DR.R. K. PODD/.R: Madam, since the question of West Bengal has arisen and the Ministei pleads ignorance of the Committee's report, I would like to inform him :hat the report of the Committee has appeared in the press about three months ago. Anyway, I do not want to further embarrass the Minister, bit the question is that within its lim ted means West Bengal has improved the lot 0fthe weavers by delivc ii g those poor weavers from the cl itches of the middleman, by encour. ging the cooperatives, by advanc ing low-interest loans and buying their products through the State Government-sponsored agencies. Is the Central Government planning to ii traduce this kind of a thing?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have already said]hat our policy is to strengthen the inoperative societies and Just to give an example, I would mention a f< iv of the schemes. One is to give assis ance to NCDC for weavers' cooperath *i* spinning mills, then, share capital assistance to primary weavers' cooperative societies, share capital assistance to spex weavers' cooperative societies, managerial subsidy to co jperattve societies, etc. We have a n imber of schemes by which the coopc rative structure in the States can be strengthened by oyr assistance apai; from what the State Governments themselves do. Some States, including West Bengal, have also got Hj idloom Development Corporation. With them also we cooperate to rie extent possible and I think the Central schemes should be made u; e of by the State Governments for the help -of the weavers. We give various types of subsidy fbr Janata cloth scheme. If the weavers' cooperatives take over manufacture of Janata cloth, its manufacture will be transferred from NTC mills to the handloom sector. There is big scope in this and- if the State Governments and the cooperative institutions can demonstrate their capaciy to "handle more and more work, we can transfer Janata cloth scheme to a considerable extent to the State Governments.

SHRI PAW AN KUMAR BANSALr Some time back, the Government took a very laudable step to protect the interests of handloom weavers by enacting a specific law to reserve certain items of cloth to be manufactured exclusively by the handloom sector. However, the Rules framed under the Act postulate that the piece of cloth could be sent to a chemical analyst for the purpose of determining whether it was manufactured on a handloom or a powerloom. This was a patent defect in the rules which was admitted by the Government some time back. I. would like to know from the hon. Minister whether steps have been**aken to remove such defects in the rules so as to make them effective.

SHRi RAM NIWAS MIRDHA; Madam, there is a law which reserves certain types of cloth, like dhotis, sarees etc. of certain. types, exclusively for the handloom sector, which means neither the mill sector nor the powerloom sector can manufacture those items of textiles. After this reservation law was enacted, hundreds, virtually thousands, of writ petitions were filed in the various High Courts by mill interests and powerloom interests, with the result that this reservation order was *more*-or less stopped to a certain extent. We have gone to the Supreme Court with the request that all the. cases pending in the various High Courts should be collected at one place, the Supreme Court should call all of them here and opine about the constitutional validity of our reservation order. I am glad to report, Madam, that our .request has been accepted and the High Court have been restrained from

passing fresh orders in this respect. When all the cases are collected here and the hearing takes place, I think we will be able to enforce this reservation order in a particular way and in a very effective way.

As regards the observation of the hon. Member that some defects have come .in the course of implementation of the reservation order, well, we are constantly reviewing it with the technical people. We want' that our reservation order should be clear-cut and such as is understood by everybody so that it .could be implemented property.

SHRl BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Madam, restructuring of handloom development scheme requires immediate attention, while the report of the Sub Committee is awaited. ″ Now it is likel to take more time. We are exporting yarn to the tune of Rs. 250 crores with 7.12 per cent price (support, X[01]' ace no doubt aware of the fact that the price of yarn has gone up by '35 per cent. Meanwhile there is no marketing facility. The individual weavers remain there, their housing facilities remain there, their difficulties renfain there and the life of these weavers is so miserable. I can give you a sample survey "of three towns with one lakh population to show how miserable a life they are leading. Your Sub Committee's report ig yet to come. Why do you not make a sample survey and give some relief to these miserable people who are living such a bad life on account of 130 many reasons?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Madam, when I said that the sub Committee is reviewing the welfare schemes and other schemes to assist the handloom sector, it doe;; not mean that these schemes , are not being implemented. They are ongoing schemes which have been in existence for a long time. What we want through this Sub Committee is *ihrt* theso schemes be reviewed and thev should suggest how the nresent on-going schemes can be modified or amended and what new schemes should be added. So, it does not mean that our work is not going on. It is going on perfectly all' right. And we are spending, just to give an example, Rs. 28 crores this year from the Central Government's Budget for Plan expenditure and. Rs. 131 crores for non-Plan expenditure. , But the problem of an individual weaver who is not in the co-operative fold, is real. I admit what the hon. Member says. The only solution, Madam, is that they should be brought within the cooperative fold. We have been urging the State Governments to streng'-then weaver's co-operatives because it is only through institutional set-up that we can help them enrich.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA olias V. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the crucial problem of the handloom sector is the accumulation of stock. To reduce the stock, the number of rebate days should be increased. But. unfortunately, our Government has decreased the number of days from 60 to 30. At the same time, as far as the khadi goods are concerned, it has allowed i°r them to continue 90 days. During the Kerala elections, as far as the coir goods are concerned the number of rebate days has been increased, but as far as the handloom sector is concerned, they have been decreased. Will this Government come forward to reduce the stock and protect the interests of the handloom sector and restore the number of rebate days from 30 to 60 as it had enjoyed in the past?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA. Madam, it is true that for a short time the rebate days were increased to 60. But the practice more or less has been, and it is also now, that there are 30 rebate days. There are the national expos which are four every year in different parts of the country, and they go from three weeks to foifr weeks even. So, if you take the national expos and the

rebate that is gi' en there and the 30 days which they can organise on thei$_r$ own, I thin]:, they are quite sufficient.

One of the schemes that is being reviewed by the Sub-Committee, Madam, is whet-he.- the rebate should continue or not. It jg a very controversial thing. Even among the weaving community and th$_e$ hand-loom sector there are two different opinions a$_s$ to wh ch is the best way of helping the weaver, whether it is through the present rebate system or through some ither system that goes on. While *we* intend to continue the present rebate system and strengthen it-to Ihe extent possible, the Sub-Committe . mentioned in the main question is ilso looking into this quGtion as i ell.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: .Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the objectives of the Bunkar Sevak Scheme whether this said Scheme is being implemented all over the country and what benefit, the weavers are getting out of the said Scheme.

SHRI RAM 4IWAS MIRDHA: Madam, I have j ot a whole list of schemes which a e being implemented, and I will pass on to the hon. Member so that ie can know more details he wants.

THE DEPUT/ CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Kanak Vlukherjee. Please be brief.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHER-JEE; - Thank ypi , Madam, for giving me the secon 1 chance. There is one point to wh A I would like to draw attention, I ..akhs *of* women weaver are the e in the handloom industry, and th y work on $_a$ very very low wage, and most of them get unemployed during the major part of the year. And they do not enjoy the benefit of th$_e$ la$_w$ of equal wage for equal work. Just have statistics and have a survey. You will see in what miserable conditions the women handloom-weaveri are. So, will the Government take proper measures to guarantee the employment of th$_e$ women throughout the year in the handloom •sector, and implement equal pay for equal work for which we have got the law, but in most of the places it is not at all implemented?

Thirdly, there should be facilities and benefits available in connection with maternity and child Welfare. Will the Government take note of these things?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Madam, giving employment all the year round t$_0$ men weavers or women weavers can only b$_e$ considered in the context of the' production of the handloom cloth. If a particular society $_0$f which these weavers are members, works in an efficient way. they can produce good quality things, the realisation per metre could be higher and they can get employment for a larger number of days. Government cannot guarantee employment all the time t$_0$ weavers because our schemes do not contemplate any direct employment of that nature. But for improving the effectiveness and the earning capacity of weavers, we have a number of schemes. For example, we have schemes for giving improved types of looms-Chitaranjan looms and other types of looms. Those who have made use of these types of looms and retrained the members $_0$f the cooperative society, they have increased their earnings. We have weavers service centres which give ideas about designs and marketing. And if proper use is made of all the facilities that have been provided by us. I think the earning capacity of the weavers will be improved.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; .Question Hour is over.